



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



January 16, 2004

Volume 1, Number 10

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CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPROVES DESIGN FOR FAYETTEVILLE STREET RENAISSANCE PROJECT

The design for the Fayetteville Street Renaissance Project was approved today at a special committee meeting of the Raleigh City Council. The design scheme must be officially considered at the Jan. 20 meeting of the council.

The 5 to 1 vote approved the "Civic A" conceptual design scheme for converting the downtown pedestrian mall to a vehicular street with two amendments.

The council deleted the bubble components with the understanding that it could consider special locations for water features such as the courthouse, library and the hotel that would be built as part of the proposed convention center.

The council also chose grey concrete aggregate sidewalks with instruction to the designer to offer some scoring design other than the diamond pattern that had been put forth.

The meeting was held Jan. 15, at the City's Urban Design Center, 133 Fayetteville Street Mall.

The Raleigh City Council voted Nov. 5 to approve a conceptual design scheme for remaking Fayetteville Street Mall and opening the area to vehicular traffic.

The Fayetteville Street Renaissance project is a downtown economic development and revitalization effort. The project includes design of improvements to Fayetteville Street Mall, portions of which could be opened to vehicular traffic in the 100 to 400 blocks, including conversion of Hargett and Martin streets from one-way to two-way.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.raleigh-nc.org and click on Livable Streets on the home page.

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PROGRESS ENERGY CONDUCTING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF LAND PARCEL FOR PROPOSED CONVENTION CENTER

Progress Energy is conducting an environmental impacts assessment of a parcel of land that may be used for the proposed convention center.

The site was the Raleigh No.1 manufactured gas plant (MGP) site and is located at the southwestern corner of the intersection of Cabarrus and McDowell streets. Progress Energy is part of a voluntary group effort, begun in 1992, to develop an investigation and clean up process for all North Carolina manufactured gas plant sites. The N.C. Manufactured Gas Plant Group consists of representatives of utility companies and municipalities believed to have some connection with the sites.

The group has signed an administrative order on consent (AOC) with the State of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Waste Management. The Division of Waste Management is responsible for monitoring and regulating manufactured gas sites. The former Raleigh No. 1 MGP site assessment is being conducted in accordance with the AOC.

The site is being assessed to determine the extent constituents of concern from manufactured gas plant residuals may exist on site in soils and groundwater. In addition to sampling soil and groundwater beneath the site, the assessment is also focusing on potential source areas that may exist beneath the site. When these plants were closed, surface structures were demolished and the sites were then covered and graded. Some of the MGP byproducts may remain buried in the soil beneath the site in former plant structures such as gasholders, purifiers, storage tanks, and other vessels.

Due to the age of the plant, which operated from the late 1870's until 1914, the original gasholder foundations (one 10,000 cubic feet, and two 30,000 cubic feet gasholders) exist below grade. Common abandonment practices of the day often involved backfilling of demolition debris and soil into these structures without removal of the residuals.

Investigations to date indicate that residual materials from two of the gasholders were removed prior to plant decommissioning. The third gasholder has not been investigated.

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Web links
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www.raleigh-nc.org

Wake County
www.wakegov.com

Downtown Raleigh Alliance
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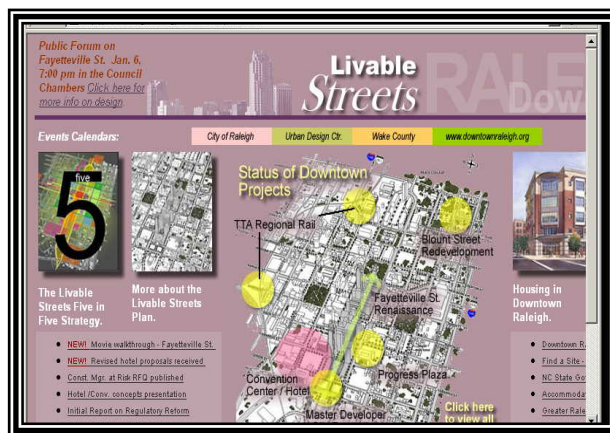
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www.visitraleigh.com

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Soil and groundwater assessment results obtained thus far along the perimeter of the former MGP site operations area have confirmed the presence of MGP byproducts in soil and groundwater beneath the site. The assessment has not been conducted in the former plant operations area, however. This area is currently covered by a building that is expected to be demolished in the late spring. Once the building is demolished, the assessment will continue.

UPDATED LIVABLE STREETS WEBSITE NOW ONLINE



Downtown is hot and getting hotter with the plans to open Fayetteville Street Mall to traffic, the Progress Energy project, downtown development plans and the proposed new convention center.

There is now one place to keep track of all the activity downtown and stay

up to date with the progress made on the Livable Streets program. By going to the City of Raleigh website <http://www.raleigh-nc.org/livablestreets/index.htm>, visitors can keep tabs on the status of downtown projects, view meetings and events calendars, view plans for opening Fayetteville Street and see the entire Livable Streets plan.

THE FIVE IN FIVE GOALS

1. **Complete a Fayetteville Street Renaissance** to reinvigorate the Street as the heart of Raleigh, our ceremonial corridor and the premiere address for office, events and cultural activity.



2. **Fund and build a new Convention Center & Hotel** to attract conventions and trade shows and improve the business environment for hotels, restaurants and other visitor services.

3. **Improve the pedestrian environment** making downtown accessible to everyone. Balance the needs of pedestrians against those of the car. Create an attractive, well lit, safe environment that links office

and residential uses to amenities such as restaurants, museums and other venues.

4. **Undertake regulatory reform** to improve the business climate by re-moving regulatory impediments, making it just as easy to do business downtown as any place in the region. Explore adding incentives in the regulations.

5. **Expand downtown management** to take a one stop approach to management and advocacy.